

HCS HB 1197 -- OPIOIDS

SPONSOR: Lynch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions relating to opioids.

SHOW-ME FREEDOM FROM OPIOID ADDICTION DECADE

The bill designates the years of 2017 to 2027 as the "Show-Me Freedom From Opioid Addiction Decade" (Section 9.240, RSMo).

OVERDOSE MEDICATION

The bill gives the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, or a licensed physician with the express written consent of the director if the director is not a licensed physician, the authority to issue a statewide standing order for an opioid antagonist. A physician issuing such an order will not be subject to any criminal or civil liability or professional disciplinary action associated with the order (Section 195.206).

DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

The bill gives the Missouri Board of Pharmacy the ability to allocate funds to develop a drug take-back program (Section 338.710).

PAIN CONTROL

The bill specifies that patient scoring of pain control shall not be required when defining data standards for quality of care and patient satisfaction (Section 374.426).

DRUG, VETERANS, AND FAMILY COURTS

The bill defines medication-assisted treatment as the use of pharmacological medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapy to provide a whole patient approach to the treatment of substance abuse disorders. A drug, veterans, or family court cannot prohibit a participant from medication-assisted treatment nor require a participant to refrain from using medication-assisted treatment as a condition of successful completion of the program. A participant shall not be in violation of the terms or conditions of the drug, veterans, or family court

on the basis of his or her receiving medication-assisted treatment (Sections 478.004 and 487.200).

INFORMATION FORM

The bill requires that the Department of Mental Health make available an information form that discloses the risks, benefits, and side effects of taking opioid medication (Section 630.870).

IMPROVED ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTIONS ACT

The bill creates the "Improved Access to Treatment for Opioid Addictions Program," (IATOA), which will disseminate information and best practices regarding opioid addiction. Assistant physicians who participate in the IATOA program must complete requirements to prescribe buprenorphine within 90 days of joining the program. The department may develop curriculum, examinations, and certification on the subject of opioid addiction and treatment. An assistant physician in the IATOA program may serve several functions. When an overdose survivor comes to an emergency room, an assistant physician shall provide treatment options and support to the survivor, when reasonable practicable (Section 630.875).

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

The bill allows the department to study the establishment of a regional neonatal abstinence syndrome step-down program (Section 630.880).

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH OPIOID MEDICATION

The bill requires that the department develop a plan to inform and educate citizens on the risks associated with opioid medications, including opioid addiction. The plan will also provide evidence-based treatment services for parents or caregivers of children who are at risk of being placed out of the home due to the parents' or caregivers' use of opioid medication or other substance abuse (Section 630.890).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it is important to allow the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services to write a standing order for the state to make it easier for pharmacies to dispense overdose medication. This bill will save lives and supports the work the department is already doing to support the opioid epidemic.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lynch; Missouri Department of Health And Senior Services; Mark Stringer; Chad Sabora; and the Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.